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Second in a series

Local spending linked to economic health

By BILL SHERROD

"Economy" is a word much maligned in modern America.

Its meaning has been twisted and kneaded to the point where its mention might invoke images of small, foreign-made automobiles, or the idea of a nation in debt to a point beyond comprehension.

Webster's fourth definition of economy, the meaning which most persons associate with the word today, is "the structure of economic life in a country, area or period; specifically, an economic system."

Appomattox County, like the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation itself, has its own "economic system" a system which is as susceptible to the effects of industrial layoffs, high interest rates and pessimism as are the systems of the state and the nation.

It is sometimes difficult to comprehend how a dollar is spent here, ten dollars spent there can affect the economy of Appomattox County.

But, according to officials at the local and state level, where a person spends his or her money does affect the economy of the area in which that person lives.

In Appomattox County, consumers pay four cents in sales tax for every dollar they spend on sales-taxable goods.

One penny of this four cents per dollar comes directly back to the county, to be used as the Board of Supervisors sees fit. In fiscal 1984 (which began July 1), the estimated return from this one percent local option will be approximately $345,000.

Another penny from that four cents is put into a statewide fund, which is divided each fiscal year and allocated to local school districts. The amount going to each locality is based on the percentage of school-aged children who live in that locality.

For fiscal 1984, the estimated revenue from this portion of the sales tax is approximately $617,000.

So in all, almost $1 million generated from sales tax in Appomattox County will be returned here to be spent on local schools, law enforcement, and other county government functions.

However, there are indications that the county's revenue from sales taxes could be larger.

A spokesman for the state Department of Taxation notes that there is a disparity in the relationship between the one-percent local option, and the portion of the tax which is returned to the county based on school-aged population.

"In most counties, the two figures are close to equal," according to the spokesman, "but in Appomattox, the school-aged population allocation is higher than the local-option return. That would indicate either that there is an unusually high percentage of school-aged children in Appomattox County, or that more money is being spent outside the county by its residents than in the case in other counties."

There are other ways in which money spent in Appomattox County benefits Appomattox Countians through greater tax revenues. As Monte Mays, commissioner of revenue for Appomattox County points out, the more local businesses thrive, the larger their inventories will be and the county will receive more money through inventory tax.

And of course, it local businesses are thriving, there will be more need for additional employment, resulting in more revenue to the state via increased personal income tax and payroll taxes. And more revenue for the state means greater allocations to Appomattox County for education road repair and other public concerns.

"I've always advocated shopping at home whenever you can," Mays notes. "And our county has advanced to the point that, with the variety of goods and services available right here, it's very seldom that a person has to shop elsewhere because an item is not available."

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Gift-fund drive starts

Show your love this Christmas by giving through the Appomattox County Social Service Department's annual gift fund drive to a child or adult in need.

Gifts of food, household articles, toys or money are greatly appreciated and are now being accepted. It isn't necessary to gift wrap packages.

Appomattox has over 100 known families and a number of elderly citizens living alone whose Christmas season would be made happier by your giving. The Volunteers are anxious to make the Christmas deliveries by Dec. 16 if possible.

Donations may be made directly fo the Appomattox County Department of Social Services on Morton Lane from Monday through Friday of each week.

"Appomattox residents have always been most generous with donations and this is really appreciated," said Mrs. Jenny Fratrick, volunteer coordinator.

Mrs. Mildred Elliott is serving as Christmas Mother again this year. She may be reached by calling 352-2555.

"We would like to urge everyone who plans to make a donation, to get it in as soon as possible," said Elliott. "The sooner you get your donations in, the sooner we can make deliveries to those who will receive the gifts. Your cooperation will be appreciated."

MEMBERS OF THE CONCORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT check the 1978 Mack Tractor Trailer that overturned last Wednesday, November 16 at 9:30 p.m. on Route 460 at the intersection of Road 667. The driver, Warren James Vaught, Jr. of Route 1, Galax, was charged with driving under the influence. He sustained no major injuries. State Police estimated approximately $10,000. damages to the truck owned by Galax Plumbing and Heating Co. (Photo By Jeff Spitzer)

Route 460 accident

School transportation workers honored

By FRANCES ABBITT

As part of the observance of American Education Week the Appomatox County School Division honored members of the Appomatox County School Division Transportation Team.

Lloyd Walton, principal of the Appomattox County School Division expressed appreciation for the dedication of the transportation team.

"Billy Perrow is an excellent supervisor of transportation and working with him are excellent mechanics and we are equally proud of the bus drivers we have transporting the children to and from school," Walton said.

"The transportation team is vital to any school system and we are indeed fortunate to have a dedicated group or workers taking care of the transportation needs of the students."

"Forty-four regular bus routes transport approximately 2000 students daily," said Perrow. "Of these 44, two buses are for special education groups; one is equipped to transport wheel chair students and the other is for pre-schoolers, equipped with seats designed for small children."

"Generally speaking we have good discipline," commented Perrow who was a teacher with the Appomatox County School Division before accepting the position of transportation supervisor.

"Of course, we have ths usual problems that come up from time to time when this many students are involved," Perrow added. "But our drivers do a good job of handling the problems when they arise."

"It is important that parents impress upon their children that respect for the driver, and respect for other children on the bus are essential to good discipline. One or two children talking in a loud clear voice may not be too disturbing but forty or fifty and it can be most distracting," Perrow said.

Parents need to realize that the drive is on duty primarily to transport the students safely to and from school and home and aren't in a position to watch them as closely as a teacher might do. The students need to accept responsibility for being well behaved and this is where the parents come in both Walton and Perrow stressed.

"We ask for the support and cooperation of parents in constantly reminding their children that good behavior on the school bus is essential

[Continued on Page 9]

Geneology research continues

The Research and Publication Committee of the Appomattox County Historical Society continues to seek help in obtaining genealogical information of present and past residents.

"Response has been good to our earlier requests for information on area families and we feel sure there are others who would like to share in our efforts to update the N.R. Featherston book on the history of Appomattox," said Betty Drinkard, spokesman for the committee.

There are a number of corrections that need to be made, information on families listed needs updating and other families need to be included in the material for the forthcoming book.

"It is our hope that the new book will aid individuals who have ancestors from this county who are seeking information on their families," said Drinkard.

"We have had a number of black families who have inquired as to whether or not they would be included in this county history. Yes, you are a part of our county and some of your families have contributed much to the county history," Drinkard continued.

Some individuals have inquired about listing step children and other situations. The committee will be glad to assist any person who feels they have a problem in getting the information together.

"There are a lot of questions," commented Drinkard, "as to why the society is taking the time and trouble to find out about the families in this county. To take a quote from Father Darkleaf, We are making history every day. We may or may not be interested today in knowing our kin or about the county but in later years you or your children will be interested in your heritage. This is the aim of the society to record this information. We are interested in any information you may have in our early county history....history, homes, businesses, old letters, maps, etc. Information may be sent to Mrs. Bob Jamerson, Rt. 2, Appomattox or Mrs. Jimmy Drinkard, Rt. 3, Appomattox or call 352-8443 or 352-7729.

Thanksgiving services set

The Appomattox community is invited to an ecumenical Thanksgiving worship service today (Wednesday) at 7:30 p.m. at the Appomattox Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. Dan Scott will be preaching and the Rev. Edward Leonard will be liturgist.

Special Thanksgiving music will be provided by the Presbyterian Church Choir.

Sponsoring churches for the community service are Appomattox Presbyterian Church, Liberty Bapist Church, Memorial United Methodist Church Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Church and St. Anne's Episcopal Church.

Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

This is written the day after the TV special "The Day After." Everyone is supposed to be scared. I am not for the simple reason I did not watch the show. Perhaps because had my share of excitement watching TV football games over the week-end. And reading about others, such as 24 to 23 games decided on the last snap of the football. VPI appears to be state champion among the major colleges, but there are honors for all as we turn to basketball for sports entertainment. The premium is on tallplayers and I have not tested my yardstick on the ACHS hopefuls.

* * *

Deer season and turkey time. I used to have a fine turkey yelper but much have misplaced it. The late R. W. Babcock was the best I ever heard using only his voice to call a turkey.

* * *

May every reader have a happy Thanksgiving and may no one of us overlook saying our thanks for the showers of blessings. Especially me, for Thursday is my wedding anniversary. Fifty-one years. And after Thanksgiving it will be time to write letters to Santa Claus. Guess what! Christmas Day comes on a Sunday this year. And what better day for a New Year to start.

* * *

Yard sales continue to be popular. I dropped by one and there were many nice items available.

* * *

Sad news. Last reading showed 19 more highway deaths in Virginia than at same date last year. Nearly 800.

* * *

Mrs. Rachel Lawson has just returned from a visit with Mrs. Mary Lizzie Parris Runner, of Ohio. Of special interest is that Mrs. Runner is 98 years "young" and was the bride in the first marriage conducted in the local Presbyterian Church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. John C. Lappa. Mrs. S.L. Ferguson was maid of honor. Rachel Lawson was ring bearer. Mrs. Mary Inge was a flower girl, as was Mrs. Maggie Sears. Some of the attendants even recall what they wore for the occasion, such as a brown skirt and yellow blouse. Do not know the date of the wedding or other attendants, but I do know that special events and occasions are precious as we browse down memory lane.

* * *

Sometimes I think we spread out the Christmas shopping season and make it unnecessarily long. Nevertheless, I figure it will not be long after Thanksgiving Day before we will see the Christmas street lights up in Appomattox and most every town and city. But no matter how carefully you prepare your gift list and how early you do your shopping, there are always late additions and last minute dashes to the store. Appomattox stands ready to serve you. My guess is that the car parking situation is in good shape, with plenty of space for YOU.

* * * *

Good gift item: a subscription to the home county newspaper.

* * *

Thanks for reading and seeya around.

Mark Scott wins grid contest

Five persons tied for first place in last week's Times-Virginian Football Contest, predicting all the games accurately.

Mark Scott, Kim Bryant, Raymond Bryant, Doug Marshall and Judy Marshall, all of Appomattox, tied for first place.

Only ten games were counted in this contest, two were thrown out as Penn. St. - Pitt game played to a tie and the Georgia Tech - Georgia game was not played.

Going to ~~the~~ tie-breaker for a winner, Mark Scott was named first place winner as he was closer to the actual game scores. He will receive a check for $20.00 as first place prize.

Kim Bryant is winner of second place, her scores were second closest to actual game scores.

The Times-Virginian Football Contest will continu; this week. Full details of rules and prizes can be found on Page 8 of this issue of the paper. This will be the last contest for this year.

Watkins named to all-region

Sandra Watkins

Sandra Watkins, a senior at Appomattox County High School, has been named to the 1983-84 All-Region III girls basketball team, according to a release from region headquarters.

Watkins and Jenny Hecht of Altavista are the two Seminole District players named to the first five on the All-Region team.

Others in the first five include Beth Hairfield, a senior from Martinsville, Robin Watkins, a senior from Martinsville, and Tracy Reynolds, a senior from Patrick County.

Veronica Glass of Gretna was also named to the All-Region squad, and was among the second five members on the 10-member squad.

Dena Thomas and Almeta Austin, both from Jefferson Forest, received honorable mention in voting for the All-Region Squad.

Sandra Watkins scored 553 points this season, and was the leading scorer in the Seminole District during the regular season.